

ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT **ESPRIT**

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THIS ISSUE:

News Briefs
page.....3

Martin Luther
King, Jr., re-
membering the
dream
page.....8

Employee of
the month
page.....11

February's
Willie B. Safe
Calendar
page.....12

Letter to
Retirees from
Col Morrow
page.....16

District Battles Low Water and Ice

By Terrie Hatfield



Barges locking through the Mel Price Auxiliary Locks

According to Dave Busse, "We are still feeling the after effects from the drought conditions we experienced during all of 1999 and the spring of 2000. The Upper Mississippi watershed never fully rebounded from those effects."

This caused the St. Louis District to enter the winter season with below average river levels on the St. Louis gage. The end of the navigation season on the Missouri River also signaled reduced flows on that river, which typically accounts for 50-60% of water in the Mississippi at St. Louis.

Continued on page 9



Commander's Perspective



***Be prepared.....
Be aware.....
Be safe.***

So far, this winter has proven itself to be a harsh one. We have experienced frozen lakes, snow and ice storms and river conditions that challenge everyone. Freezing morning temperatures make the commute to work extremely dangerous and down right unpleasant. I can't remember when I have scraped so much ice and frost off my windshield. I was watching a commercial several weeks ago for an electric ice scrapper and remember laughing about it. Right now it doesn't seem so funny. With this winter weather here to stay for a while, it is important that we pay more attention to safe driving. Risk avoidance plays a very critical role in keeping us safe during our winter travels. Plan for extra time if the weather is bad. Look for alternative transportation or car pools. If the weather is extremely poor, think about coming in to work late or not at all. A day of leave at home is better than a day in the ditch. Carry extra items in your vehicle during the winter, blankets, flashlight, shovel, cat sand or regular sand for ballast and to throw under the tires, and some non-perishable food and water. Do not carry a full water bottle, as it will freeze during periods when the car is not operating. When your gas shows half full, refill the tank. You never know when you'll be stuck in traffic on the Poplar Street Bridge. It is important to keep your car serviced in the winter with regular oil changes, tire checks and rotations and, of course, the all important cooling system.

No sermon would be complete without a word about the other guy. Those horrible drivers that were out there this summer, you know the ones, they cut you off, tail-gate, change lanes in the blink of an eye with no turn signals or check to see if the lane is clear, and talk on their cell phones while eating and driving. Yes, those folks are still out there, and they have not changed their habits or improved their driving. They are even more dangerous when weather conditions are poor. Keep an eye out for the other guy and don't become a statistic this winter.



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
St. Louis District

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LAKES & RIVERS NEWS BRIEFS

Rend Lake:



“Careers To Education” Program at Rend Lake

By Michael Jeffries, Sesser-Valier
High School Student

Now that I am a senior at Sesser-Valier High School, it's time to start thinking of a career. Because of my love for the outdoors, I am interested in possibly working in the natural resource field. My high school offers a class that allows me to test my ideas, and experience, first-hand, a job in the natural resource field. This is done through a class that is called Careers to Education. This program gives students a chance to become an intern at a business of their chosen career interest.

The main idea of the course is to give students a chance to learn the pros and cons of the job before spending 4-5 years in school studying a career area for which you are unsure. This could mean a major saving of time and money. I report to the job to work the last two periods

of the day, Monday through Thursday instead of going to the classroom. Fridays are spent in the classroom discussing the things- good and bad -that we have done at work during the week, turning in the journals that we keep about our daily work experiences, and working out of our occupational textbooks.

I have chosen to do my class work at the Rend Lake Project Office with the Corps of Engineers. I will spend approximately 7 weeks in each of the 5 departments at the lake. I have already gotten the chance to do many things and have completed my first 7 weeks in the Interpretive Services and Outreach Department. One of my responsibilities while in that department was to write this article for the Esprit. Some of my other responsibilities have included scanning daily newspapers for articles about the lake, organizing a digital photograph library, and performing a variety of tasks at the Visitor Center. I also had the experience of helping to plan and organize the 14th Annual Rend Lake Cleanup/ National Public Lands Day Celebration.

I am now assigned to the Environmental Management shop. I assist in tasks dealing with managing the natural resources at Rend Lake. But my most exciting experience so far has been going to the Rend City

Wetlands to observe wildlife and check for trespassers and disturbances in the area.

During this school year, I will get the opportunity to work with the Corps of Engineers in each of the 5 shops. I like this opportunity because I will be able to learn by experiencing different types of jobs and what is involved in the management of Rend Lake. I have lived approximately five miles from the lake my entire life, yet I never realized the responsibilities or the amount of programs that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Rend Lake is responsible for. In the next 27 weeks, I hope to learn more about my career choice and hopefully decide if this is the right one for me.

Technology Grant Enables Students to Monitor Deer Movements

By Janet Mifflin

Seasonal Park Ranger Gene Morgan and his Sesser-Valier High School Biology II class, where Mr. Morgan is a full-time teacher, have received a \$45,000 Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant to boost student proficiency in math and science and to increase student awareness in the use of technology in scientific research.

Ranger Morgan and his students, with technical assistance from the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory at



Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, will trap and radio collar two white tail deer to track and analyze the movements of this popular game mammal in relationship to habitats around the lake. Tracking devices consist of radio telemetry equipment, global positioning systems and computers. Morgan and his students from Sesser-Valier High School have for many years been instrumental in assisting the Corps with its annual deer hunt for people with disabilities.

Rangers Out-engineer Nature's Engineer



Park Ranger Mike Edwards and Natural Resource Specialist Ray Zoanetti were recently confronted with an engineering problem while attempting to de-water a 70 acre moist soil unit (MSU) at the Gun Creek Wetland Complex. During the late spring and summer, normal procedure is to drain MSUs to allow natural wetland vegetation to grow and to perform any

habitat manipulation work that is necessary. A dry spring was followed by a wet summer, making this work difficult. However, the water level finally started dropping in late August, but resident beavers did not like this and dammed up the drainage culvert on the stop-log structure.

Repeated attempts by the natural resource management staff to destroy the dam by hand only resulted in the beavers rebuilding the dam every night. Finally Edwards and Zoanetti resorted to searching the internet for solutions and found many sites with answers from as far away as Massachusetts and Alberta, Canada.

An eight foot long cylindrical section of 4" X 4" welded wire was inserted into the 3' culvert and capped at the end with another section of weld wire. After the structure was positioned in and under the current water level, it was wired together and held in place by metal fence posts. The idea is that the opening is too large for the beavers to dam and the 4 X 4 opening is difficult for the beavers to close with mud, vegetation and sticks. After over a week of operation, the beavers have not been able to overcome this solution.

Beavers are an important element in wetland ecosystems, although sometimes their activities are diametrically opposed to the plans of man. However, in

late October, the Rend Lake staff began refilling the MSU prior to the arrival of migrating waterfowl. The beavers were appeased.

Arts, Education and Entertainment for the Developmentally Disabled



Colonel Morrow, with the help of Woodsy the Owl, welcomes participants of the Arts, Education and Entertainment for the Developmentally Disabled.

The Arts, Education and Entertainment for the Developmentally Disabled was sponsored by the Rend Lake Conservancy District, Kiwanis Club, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Sesser/Valier Outdoorsmen Club. Colonel Morrow welcomed the participants in the opening ceremony. Illinois's First Lady Laura Lynn Ryan was the honorary chairperson. The day provided approximately 250 institutionalized persons with a day of hands-on activities and interpretive programming.



Seven stations were located on the grounds allowing participants to move between stations. The Benton Kiwanis club provided the tents for the stations and helped with lunch. Interpretive programs focusing on snakes, owls, mammals, and bees were provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff. The World Bird Sanctuary, a petting zoo and magician rounded out the day's programming. An art contest was held for participants and their work was placed on display at the Artisan shop the day of the event.

First Choice Camp

by Dawn Kovarik

Life is all about choices and this camp lives up to its name. The First Choice program offers inner city youth a chance to make the right choices in life and to be drug-free, before they choose to go down the wrong road. The two, one-week camps offer participants an array of exciting outdoor opportunities guaranteed to provide lasting memories and hopefully give participants a spiritual uplift and the aspiration to succeed in life.

The First Choice camp is well structured and follows a military style regimen. Camp leaders are often high-ranking military personnel. These individuals have chosen a very hard job, one that involves mentoring and instilling leadership skills upon

the camp participants--not an easy task.

This year marked the 3rd consecutive year that the Illinois National Guard, the Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have held the camp in Rend Lake's Dale Miller Youth area. The Corps of Engineers Park Rangers provided interpretive programming on subjects such as nature hikes, wildlife art, water safety and reptiles.



Arlanna pointing out poison ivy to campers

Mark Twain Lake:

Mark Twain Lake Deer Hunt For Physically Challenged Hunters

The Annual Mark Twain Lake Deer Hunt for the physically challenged was held at the Indian Creek Recreation Area. Members of the Lions Clubs in Monroe City and Paris, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, sponsored the hunt. Many of area sportsmen also donated their time to assist

with the hunt.

Park Ranger Shelly Howald is in charge of the event and works year-round to ensure its success and safety. Over 75 dedicated volunteers helped build blinds, set-up base camp, transported and assisted hunters, and prepared and served meals.

The 29 participants bagged 28 deer during the two-day hunt. Organizers and participants are extremely pleased with the hunt's success.

Lake Shelbyville:

Happy Retirement to Norma and Bill

When January 2001 rolled around, the staff at Lake Shelbyville were missing two familiar faces. Long-time employees Bill Gidcomb and Norma Browning officially retired at the end of December. Combined, the two have over 74 years of government service and 55 years of service at Lake Shelbyville. Both Norma and Bill's friendship and expertise will be greatly missed. Happy retirement to you both.





Rededication of the St. Louis Floodwall



Photo courtesy of Horner and Shifrin

COL James Meanor (Ret.) (left) and St. Louis District Engineer, COL Michael Morrow, unveil a plaque rededicating the St. Louis Floodwall Project. The ceremony was held as part of the 2000 Missouri River Region Training Conference in St. Louis.

An enduring partnership that began more than 40 years ago was celebrated to recognize its importance to the City of St. Louis. A ceremony was held on Friday, October 20, 2000, at the foot of the Arch to rededicate the St. Louis Floodwall. The St. Louis Flood Protection Project consists of four miles of floodwall, seven miles of levees, 28 pumping stations, 44 sewer systems alterations, and 39 road and rail closure structures. Approximately 3,200 acres are protected by the project. The project cost \$85 million to construct, considerably under the estimated cost of \$132 million. Construction started in 1959, and the project was initially dedicated in 1974. It is estimated that the floodwall saved \$160 million in property damages during the 1973 flood and \$680 million in property damages during the 1993 flood. It is considered to be one of the most significant economic development projects in the City of St. Louis.

Presidents' Day Funny Facts

This February 19th, we receive a paid day off to honor those who have led this great nation. Here are a few interesting facts about some of our past leaders:

-Anyone could come to Andrew Jackson's public parties at the White House, and just about everyone did! At his last one, a wheel of cheese weighing 1,400 lbs. was eaten in two hours. The White House smelled of cheese for weeks.

-James Buchanan was certainly a good host. When England's Prince of Wales came to visit in the fall of 1860, so many guests came with him, it's said the president slept in the hallway!

-In 1879, the first telephone was installed in the White House during Rutherford B. Hayes' presidency. At first it was hardly used, because there weren't many other phones in Washington to call.

-James Garfield was the second president shot in office. Doctors tried to find the bullet with a metal detector invented by Alexander Graham Bell. But the device failed because Garfield was placed on a bed with metal springs, and no one thought to move him. He died on September 19, 1881.

-Sheep on the White House lawn? A flock of sheep grazed during Woodrow Wilson's term. Their wool was sold to raise money for the Red Cross during World War I.

-You know your house needs repair when a piano leg goes through the floor! It happened in Harry Truman's White House in 1948.

-President Dwight D. Eisenhower, an avid golfer, had a putting green installed on the White House lawn. He also banished squirrels from the grounds because they were ruining the green.



News Brief cont.

21st Annual Rend Lake Deer Hunt for Persons with Disabilities a Success

By Ray Zoanetti



An ecstatic Larry Muzzy with his 10 point buck.

An outstanding 80% harvest was reported with 19 of the 24 hunters filling their tags. The hunt is a combined effort of the Corps of Engineers and a number of Volunteers. Approximately 75 students from the Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club volunteered to begin work

at 3:30 a.m. to escort their assigned hunters to the field. The students assisted with a variety of miscellaneous tasks associated with the hunt during the 3-day season. Local resident Jimmy Lipe volunteered to cook breakfast on opening morning to feed the hungry hunters and students. Mr. Lipe began cooking at 2:30 a.m. and before 6:00 a.m. the mess was cleaned up. Without the effort of the volunteers, the Rend Lake Deer Hunt for Persons with Disabilities would not have been such a success.

Wappapello Lake:

Kathy Dickson Receives Honor

Wappapello Lake Park Ranger Trainee Kathy Dickson has been selected as the featured artist for the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) for 2001. Kathy appeared at the NWTF headquarters in Edgefield, South Carolina to sign

prints to be made available to the various chapters through their banquet packages. Kathy signed 2,375 prints over a four-day period. An afghan, tapestry pillows and a sculpture, which match the print, are

also available in the banquet packages. The painting portrayed a male and female Northern Cardinal in a Flowering Dogwood. This is the third commissioned print edition Kathy has had with the NWTF.

New Survey

Wappapello Lake, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will institute a creel survey for Wappapello Lake beginning on March 1, 2001. Information gathered from the creel survey will be used to evaluate fishing pressure, age structure and species composition of crappie and black bass in the reservoir.

Disabled Persons Fishing Day Date Change

A change of date for the 11th Annual Disabled Persons Fishing Day at Wappapello Lake has been approved by Mr. Jerry Conley, Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation. The event will be held on May 12, 2001. In the past, this event had been held in conjunction with Missouri's free fishing weekend and National Fishing Week in June. The change of date was requested in order to provide better fishing opportunities and weather conditions for the participants.



Rend Lake hunters enjoy the festivities at the deer hunt banquet



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

I have a dream than one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

On August 28, 1963, at least 250,000 people descended on Washington in the "largest single demonstration in movement history". It surpassed the dreams of the six Black and four White men who organized it. The world was able to watch this massive testament to civil rights. Speakers came from all walks of life, politics, organized labor, religious groups, entertainment. Of all the speakers, Dr. Martin L. King captured the day.

"Five score years ago.... A great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice... But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition."



Howard Sochurek/LIFE

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King went on to say that in spite of the difficulties of "today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.... I have a dream that one day on the red hill of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream than one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

"I have a dream today... This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning "My country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring."

Following the march, the organizers were invited to a reception at the White House, where President John F. Kennedy "was bubbling over the success of the event."



THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Excerpts taken from.....

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. – Holiday Celebration Prepared by the Research Division, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

Perhaps the ultimate recognition of Dr. King's crusade to secure equal rights for all came on December 10, 1964, when, at age 35, he was the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Some months earlier, right after he had been nominated, Dr. King told a friend that the Nobel Peace Prize was not simply a personal award, but the most significant international endorsement possible of the civil rights struggle. This was not a prize being given to one individual...but the "foremost of earthly honors" being accorded the movement he had come to symbolize.



Ice cont.

As if this set of circumstances weren't enough to keep the District hopping, Mother Nature provided an additional myriad of troublesome events to further complicate the difficult task of keeping the river open. There were 19 days with highs below freezing in December and the resultant ice is impeding the water conditions, making navigation channel maintenance even more difficult. Thousands of small creeks, streams and drainage ditches that feed the river froze over, depleting the supply of water coming into the system. Water turned to ice and became trapped in the navigation pools, depleting the water supply downstream to St. Louis and on to Cairo. Frigid temperatures have left 300 miles of the Upper Mississippi River packed with ice, from St. Paul to Rock Island.

On 14 December, the St. Louis gage was at -2.5 feet. Ice knocked out the buoys that mark the navigation channel, severely

testing the skills of the towboat pilots.

Although the dredges did an excellent job this fall in preparing the channel, winter ice hampered dredging operations. For a time, ice prevented dredging to relieve trouble spots in the form of sediment buildup, however, the contractor Dredge America has remobilized.

As lock personnel cleared ice from the main chamber at Mel Price Locks and Dam, the anchorage for one of the lower miter gates failed. The main lock chamber is expected to be out of service for 2-3 months. The auxiliary lock is still operational and at present is able to keep up with demand because of off-season traffic slowdown and because tows have been limited to eight barges due to icy conditions on the river.

Even during this extreme cold, sometimes reaching wind chills of more than -40 degrees, our Locks and Dam personnel have continued to work to serve our customers. Hats off to all those District, Coast Guard and navigation industry employees who

must apply their skills to the fullest extent to keep our river open and the traffic moving.

Retiree Review

Nine hearty souls braved the cold weather for their Christmas luncheon and to enjoy good food and good company. We had the best private room with a lighted Christmas tree.

Talk centered around the fact that many of our peers are having major heart bypass surgery, Pete Puricelli had a 5-way on 12 December. Gordon Davis, Ron Mersserli and Lee Lenzner are also members of the cabbage patch. We wish all of them the best. Al Saller passed away and we extend our sympathy to the family. House Bill 59 has been discussed in the State House for the last three years and now it will take another form as the sponsors are limiting the bill to those at or over 65. The bill exempts civil service employees from State income tax on their pension. NARFE has been pushing for its passage.



First Kaskaskia Watershed Summit

On 20 November the Kaskaskia Watershed Association (KWA) held their first Summit at Governor's Run in Carlyle, Illinois.

The Kaskaskia River Watershed has a commendable history of working together to protect, enhance, utilize, and address river related issues with nine active interest groups meeting quarterly or annually.

The Kaskaskia River Basin encompasses 22 counties, with 30 main tributaries and 5,840 square miles of drainage in Southwestern Illinois. It is a major tributary of the Mississippi River beginning just west of Champaign, IL and flows southwesterly across the state for approximately 325 miles to its confluence with the Mississippi River about eight miles north of Chester, Illinois. The river has three federal projects: Lake Shelbyville, Carlyle Lake and the Kaskaskia Navigation Project. On 18 June 2000, the Kaskaskia Navigation Project was combined with the Carlyle Lake Project and named the Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia Navigation Project.

The Kaskaskia Watershed is highly diversified. The Kaskaskia Watershed Association (KWA) held their first summit and endorsed a Conservation Reserve Program (CREP) for the Kaskaskia River. If selected this will be another program which interest groups can use to reach their goals in enhancing recreation, flood damage prevention, improving the environment, reducing erosion, improving water quality, ecosystem restoration, and economic development.

COL Michael Morrow was a guest speaker for their first Summit. He related the growing recognition that locally driven water resource problems have regional dimensions and are of concern to these diverse interest groups. Many activities occurring in the watershed are interrelated; therefore, managing water resources has evolved to more of a holistic, collaborative effort. The Corps has developed its own watershed perspective to guide water resources development,

protection, and management within the Civil Works Program. To facilitate this approach there must be public/private sector participation. COL Morrow stated this Summit proves this exists in the Kaskaskia Watershed.

Park Rangers Pam Doty from Lake Shelbyville and Norma Hall from Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia Navigation Project presented program on the diversity of the Kaskaskia Watershed.

Three of the summit groups have Ecosystem Partnerships under the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) C-2000 Program, which began in 1996. The Kaskaskia Watershed Ecosystem Partnerships have received \$2,205,771.00 in C-2000 Funds and \$2,547,165.00 in Matched Funds. C-2000 is a long-term approach to protecting and managing Illinois' natural resources. It is a voluntary, broad-based incentive program. A recent example was the Erosion Study conducted by Corps personnel from Carlyle Dam to Fayetteville funded by IDNR C-2000 funds with matching funds from Corps Planning Assistance to the States (PAS). This year an Erosion Study has been funded by C-2000 from Lake Shelbyville to Carlyle Lake, and again the Corps matched with PAS and will do the work.

In 1992, US Fish and Wildlife Service recognized the significance of the over 40,000 acres of contiguous bottomland and oak hickory forest, the largest in the state and the region as another example of diversity along the Kaskaskia River between Carlyle Lake and Fayetteville. The USFWS worked with the privatized landowners and the Natural Resource Conservation offices to complete the Kaskaskia River Corridor Stewardship Plan forming a non-profit land and trust to acquire conservation easements to preserve and protect its resource and educate the people. This may be the largest initiative of this type in the nation.



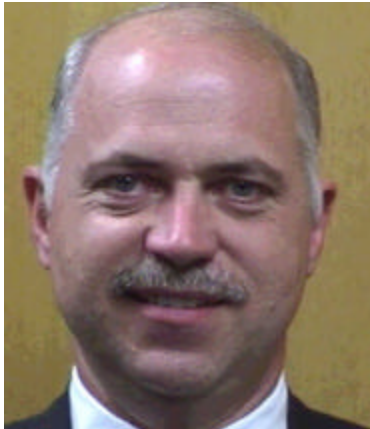
Trumpeter Swans are Back!!

By Erin Connett

A total of thirty-nine trumpeter swans have been reported in the Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area. These birds have been migrating to the Rivers Project since 1991, when four trumpeters traveled from Wisconsin after being raised in captivity, banded, and released near Chippewa Lake, by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Rangers from the Rivers Project have been closely tracking their numbers and band numbers. These numbers are then reported back to Patricia Manthey, Field Coordinator of the WDNR Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Program.



Continued on page 13



December Employee of the Month

December's Employee of the Month is Alan Brandt of the Construction Operations - Technical, Policy and Physical Support Branch. Alan's leadership skill is responsible for something that hasn't been done in the past, getting everyone to agree on a standard design for our recreation facilities.

The product of Alan's efforts represents an accommodation of needs between the design/engineering folks and the operational project managers. The resultant standard specifications will streamline and shorten engineering and design efforts, reduce time needed to award a contract, result in better bids and fewer protests and will save time and money. Alan has contributed significantly to revolutionizing the way we do business, and this District is grateful to have him on the team.

Alan was rightfully proud to receive the award, but was quick to recognize the efforts of his District teammates. "None of us could perform our jobs alone, independent of anyone else. Thanks to the representatives from Engineering Division, Rivers Project Office, and all the Lake Offices who expressed their needs and desires and were willing to work in a spirit of support and consensus to come to a standardized design agreement. Without that willingness to work together, our efforts would have been increasingly difficult. My thanks also to the Operations Managers who support the agreement we collectively reached. I greatly appreciate the strong working relationship that has been established between CON-OPS and Engineering. Together we can streamline this effort, reduce costs, produce a top-notch design, and save future O&M dollars to perform much needed maintenance and repair. Together, We Can Do Anything."

Editor's Note: The lederhosen Alan was seen wearing while sitting on Santa's lap belong to him and were originally purchased in Germany. Alan hails from Monroe County, IL, the original home of the Straussfest, and has been playing guitar and harmonica for dances, since 1967. He claims he wears the lederhosen only while playing for the Straussfest and similar OOM-PAH-PAH events.

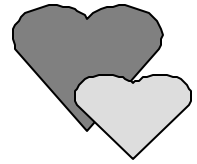


ESPRIT

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District—Gateway to Excellence




Thumbs Up
For
Safety!



February

2001

Sun	Mbn	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Beware of slippery conditions on sidewalks, streets and highways.				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	Remember to follow changing winter weather advisories.		



Trumpeter Swans cont.



Rivers Project looks forward to seeing several specific swans year after year. E93, a four-year-old female, and 71KU, an eight-year-old male, are a mating pair with an interesting story. 71KU was in the second batch of swans to be seen in the Riverlands in 1992. His parents were the first birds reported in the Rivers Project and he has brought back many swans every year. In winter of 1999, he brought his mate and several other swans to a remote pond of the Riverlands, when they were shot, within 25 feet, with a high-powered rifle. The two unbanded birds were killed, but luckily 71KU was spared. There have been no arrests in this case. In the spring of 1999, he was introduced to his current mate E93 after she had been in intense rehabilitation after being shot.

Another favorite swan has a new band this year. H02 has a satellite-tracking collar that can be followed over the Internet on www.wildtracks.org. This new research project was started last year and is helping WDNR with

migration patterns of the newly introduced trumpeter swans.

H02, a male, is also known as “Rib-breaker,” because when he was being banded with his first collar, he broke two people’s ribs in the process. Rib-breaker has a new family this year. His mate, E80, hatched five cygnets this year, and all are doing well.

Trumpeter swans are the largest waterfowl found in the United States. These swans can reach a total height of six feet, and have a wing span over 12 feet long. These birds are making an enormous comeback from the brink of extinction. Trumpeter swan populations dwindled down to alarming numbers throughout the early to mid 1900s. Thought to be extinct, a permanent population of 209 individuals was found in the mountains of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. Today, with amazing recovery efforts, the population of Trumpeter Swans is estimated at over 7,500 individuals.

The number of Trumpeter Swans at the Riverlands has grown every year since 1991, and they migrate south from late November through March. These beautiful birds can be seen in Ellis Bay, Teal Pond, or Heron Pond in the early morning or early evening. Come visit the Riverlands and observe these magnificent birds in their natural habitat.

Kaskaskia cont.

The Kaskaskia River Navigation Project was completed in 1974 built with one purpose—navigation. In the 1996 Water Resource Development Act (WRDA), Fish and Wildlife authority was added, and in 2000 recreation was added. With these additions, as money is available, many new projects are being planned.

In December 2000 the Kaskaskia Watershed was selected to participate in the Federal Lakes Recreation Demonstration Laboratory. This was the first watershed to be selected as a whole with three federal projects as one nomination. The goal of the watershed is to continue to strengthen the ongoing public/private sector partnerships promoting the economic and environmental health of this watershed. This nomination will offer an opportunity to test innovative methods of doing business to reduce costs without reducing customer services. This watershed is a complex system, in which the KWA representing the agricultural, urban, recreational, and cultural interests, are working together to balance the needs and concerns of the environment and natural resources for now and future generations. With these long-term commitments the diversity of the Kaskaskia watershed will continue to offer Something For Everyone.



Retirees Reunite at Mel Price

By Wally Feld

A small group of retirees that struggled through the long process of replacing old L&D 26 with the new Mel Price facility met at the Locks and Dam in November. This is a part of a group that meets on a regular basis to talk about old times and discuss new challenges. The group met with Lockmaster Tom Miller and was given a tour including the control house. Former DE COL Lee McKinney, Tom Mudd, Red Buchhold and Charlie Denzel were there and Charlie brought along a special guest, John Jansen.

John retired in the early seventies after a long career with the District as Lock and Dam and Navigation Chief. He started with the District in 1934 as a radio operator on one of the many dredges we had at that time. He soon moved to help in the

construction of the "new" Locks and Dam No 26, remembering reading piezometers in subzero weather. He also told stories of his shipboard work in the Pacific during World War II and his five trips through the Panama Canal (which he did not help build). Now a nonagenarian he has volunteered at St Anthony's hospital for many years.

Mel Price Locks and Dam Attracts International Visitors

By Jaynie Doerr

The Melvin Price Locks and Dam is increasingly becoming an attraction for international visitors. Many of these visitors are involved in the agriculture

industry, but others visit for their own pleasure. In the past few months, rangers have conducted tours for visitors from Canada, England, France, Germany, Korea,

Japan, Portugal and Spain. Having conducted some of these tours myself, I am pleased to see how enthusiastic these visitors

are toward the Mississippi River.

The increased visitation is not surprising since several European travel magazine writers visited the state of Illinois this past June. Of the many attractions in Illinois, they plan to feature articles concerning the sights in Alton and surrounding cities. While they were in Alton, they toured Melvin Price Locks and Dam and attended a dinner with Park Ranger Julie Ziino, and Colonel Morrow later that evening.

According to Doug Arnold, President of Greater Alton Twin Rivers Convention and Tourism Bureau, several hundred international tourists visit the Riverbend area each year, and many others visit the area without contacting the visitors' center. People from countries all over the globe have visited Alton, but the countries of France, Germany, and Japan are dominantly represented.

These visitors are usually in the agriculture business and interested in witnessing how their commodities travel the Mississippi River.

In September, the American Soybean Association hosted a meeting for industry representatives from Portugal and Spain, with 25 people participating in a tour of the Locks and Dam. Since Melvin Price Locks and Dam is located between two



Left to right: Tom Miller, Red Buchhold, Lee McKinney (former DE), John Jansen, Tom Mudd and Charlie Denzel.



major river confluences, the Illinois River to the north and the Missouri River south of the Dam, this is a prime location to see barge travel. The locks are also conveniently located near St. Louis, Missouri, an added bonus for tourists visiting the area. On July 11, 2000, a ranger from the Rivers Project Office was invited to speak to 150 European visitors attending a conference sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society. In her presentation, Ranger Erin Connett spoke of the primary missions of the Corps and of the goals of Rivers Project Office in particular. The event was held aboard the Tom Sawyer Cruise Boat. During the conference, the boat journeyed from the St. Louis Arch to the Melvin Price Locks and Dam, and then returned to the Arch.

The U.S. Dept. of Commerce, International Trade Administration (ITA) reports that approximately 50,000,000 people from abroad have visited the U.S. this year. The main pur-

pose for 48% of overseas visitors was leisure/recreation and 24% was business-related. According to Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, 310,228 overseas visitors have come through St. Louis. The Mississippi River Parkway Commission, developed in 1986, reports an increase of 46% for overseas visitation to the 10 Mississippi River states as compared to 18% for the nation as a whole. The ITA forecasts a 20% increase in visitation to the U.S. for the next 3 years. Current visitation numbers to the states bordering the Mississippi River are projected to continue to rise as well. It is a great pleasure to see people from all areas visit the Locks and Dam. As an interpreter for the Corps at Rivers Project Office, I have gained some international awareness from these visitors. The visitors learn from our presentations, and are more than happy to answer questions from inquisitive rangers. Exchanging stories and travel experience can be beneficial for those wanting to visit other parts of the country or world. Advice is given on "must see" sights, great places to eat, and places to avoid. I have as much fun meeting people from various parts of

the United States as well. As an interpreter at the Locks and Dam, I never know what country or state I will be visiting with each passing day.

St. Louis District Impacts Studies in Europe

The following email was recently received in the ED-HP Applied River Engineering Center: "I am a 17 year old student in London, England, currently studying Geography Advanced level. I was recently asked to write an essay on engineering projects...on the Mississippi River, and after searching the internet desperately and achieving nothing, I was advised to look at your website. All the information I required was there, complete with fantastic photos. I had to prevent myself from printing out everything and getting too carried away, such was the extent of the detail on the site! I thank you so very much for providing users like me with such a valuable resource, and one that is so user friendly as well."

To all those who provide the information and those who work on the websites, — as you can see, your good work extends far beyond our boundaries and does not go unnoticed.



ESPRIT

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District—Gateway to Excellence



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

ST. LOUIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

JAN 05 2001

Dear Valued Retiree:

The New Year brings about new and exciting changes for everyone, and recently the way our District manages our outgoing mail has changed. Each division is now responsible for the cost of mailing everything that is sent. For this reason, the Public Affairs Office has initiated an audit of the *Esprit* mailing list.

A major concern is the number of postal returns of the *Esprit*, because of expired forwarding addresses and non-cancellation of the publication. In an effort to eliminate unnecessary spending associated with postage costs, the St. Louis District, is asking for your help. The audit being conducted will change, update, or delete names on the mailing list as directed by all who respond to this request. It will benefit you, the retiree, to know that your information is current, and will ensure you receive your copy of the publication in a timely manner.

Technology is advancing by the hour and there are many advantages; one being access to the *Esprit* online. It's now possible to view, print and read the *Esprit* on the Internet through the St. Louis District's web page at www.mvs.usace.army.mil. By using the District's web page, you can obtain the *Esprit* up to five days before the hardcopy is delivered to our office; allowing you to get a head start on the new and exciting events that are occurring within our District and throughout the Corps. I encourage all of you, who have access to the Internet, to take advantage of this superb opportunity to acquire your copy of the publication.

To assist us in serving you better, please take a moment to fill out the enclosed post card with your name, current mailing address and your choice of continuing or canceling your subscription to the *Esprit*. Please complete the postcard and return to the Public Affairs Office no later than March 1, 2001. You are an important part of the St. Louis District and we appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Morrow
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer